These channels would, however, operate only when the television channels are functioning.

(c) to (f) Cable operators can also retransmit the signals of the sky radio channels by fixing an additional equipment. The cost for disseminating 4 such channels would be Rs. 1000 approx. The individual subscriber can, thereafter, receive the signal on a domestic FM receiver.

Radio paging service by air

1165. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BRODCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether All India Radio launched the high-tech radio paging service in the capital;

(b) if so, the broad features of the proposed service;

(c) whether Government propose to start radio paging service in all parts of the country; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) Yes. Sir. The service using AIR's FM transmitter in New Delhi commenced operation from 14th January, 1995. It is available round the clock to subscribers within a radius of 50-60 kms.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A similar service was started at Nagpur from 6th March, 1995. It would also commence from 15 other cities later this year.

Foreign Media Tie-ups

1166. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain foreign media owners are seeking tie-ups with local parties to exploit the Indian market and have submitted projects to the Foreign Investment Promotion Board;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the decision, if any, taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, what are implications involved in relation to the domestic media?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Documentaries on Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookherjee and Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya

1167. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the documentaries on the life and works of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookherjee and Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya being shown on Doordarshan on their respective birth anniversaries have been discontinued or the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether Doordarshan has drawn some specific guidelines for telecasting documentaries and other features about national leaders if so, details thereof;

(d) what are the details of such documentaries and features which were telecast during 1994 with special mention of the names of the leaders; and

(e) what was the time allotted to each programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Encouragement to Indian Talent in Music and Art Forms

1168. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any policy to protect and nurture Indian talent in music and other cultural art forms;

(b) whether it is a fact that the entry of foreign TV greatly affects the opportunities for Indian artists: and

(c) if so, the manner in which Government propose to ensure that Doordarshan increases facilities for a wide range of Indian artists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) The Government has a number of scheme for prttecting and nurturing Indian talent in music and other cultural art forms involving financial assistance, scholarships and fellowships.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) One of the primary functions of Doordarshan is to provide a platform, through its channels, to the abundant talent available within the country in the field of music and other cultural art forms.

Selection of news-casters

1169. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no proper guidelines have been evolved for short listing of applications for the post of News-casters; and

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that no proper guidelines have been evolved for recruitment of News-casters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

Graduate of film Institutes and National School of Drama

1170. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of students having passed from Film Institutes and National School of Dramas, who were absorbed in service of Doordarshan and Akashvani;

(b) whether the graduate students from Film Institution and NSD and allied Government Registered Institutes extended opportunties of carrying out production of TV serials;

(c) if not, the reasons thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to reserve quota of Doordarshan serials without bank guarantee to the graduates from Film Institutes and allied institutes; and

(e) whether Government have any proposal for opening of new channel for the Film Institute's graduates and students to prove their merit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Such information is not maintained centrally in a compiled form.

(b) Yes, Sir.